



Internet Payment Platform



The Internet Payment Platform transforms inefficient paperbound systems into streamlined electronic processes for both Federal agencies and their suppliers.

About the Internet Payment Platform (IPP)

The Internet Payment Platform (IPP) is a comprehensive electronic invoicing and payment information service made available to all Federal agencies and their suppliers by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Financial Management Service (FMS). IPP centralizes transaction processing in the order-to-payment notification cycle, including purchase orders, invoices and payments, in one easy-to-use Web-based portal.

- Available at no charge to Federal agencies and suppliers
- Eliminates time-consuming paper-based processes
- Expedites approvals by routing invoices automatically
- Improves communications and discount opportunities with suppliers

A Flexible Solution for Agencies

IPP provides Federal agencies with a flexible service designed to increase efficiencies and capture cost savings in the order-to-payment notification cycle.

- Enables electronic delivery of purchase orders (POs) to registered suppliers
- Receives electronic invoices from suppliers
- Routes invoices automatically for expedited online approvals
- Presents detailed information on Treasury payments and offsets
- Improves Prompt Pay compliance and helps capitalize on discount opportunities offered by suppliers
- Allows suppliers enrolled by one agency to transact with all IPP agencies
- Issues email notifications when action is required

Addressing Agency Business Challenges

The approval and processing of paper-based documents is often time consuming and error prone. Agency finance personnel



are finding they have more work and fewer resources. Staff must repeatedly field questions from suppliers about invoice and payment status, partial payments, offsets and returns – taking valuable time away from key business responsibilities. IPP addresses these challenges by automating manual processes and centralizing information through a Web-based application accessible only to authorized users.

IPP Support for Intra-Governmental Buy/Sell Transfers

The IPP and IPAC teams are interfacing systems to automate support for a standard business process to transact and reconcile buy/sell activity. IPP will provide a digital version of the new Standard InterAgency Agreement (IAA), intra-governmental orders, invoices, and settlement

information, while IPAC will continue to perform transaction settlement.

The IPP Solution

With IPP, agency and supplier staff can readily access a single portal to exchange purchase orders, invoices, and payment information. The need for agency staff to field inquiries from suppliers is reduced, as suppliers can readily access transaction and status information through an online self-service interface.

IPP receives and consolidates up-to-date information from three major sources:

- Proprietary payment data from existing FMS disbursement and accounting systems (including offsets)
- Purchase order and receipt data from agency systems
- Invoice data from supplier fulfillment systems

IPP offers customizable workflow options to quickly route invoices to people within an agency – even at different locations – to help contracting officers and technical representatives get their jobs done faster and easier. With IPP, agencies can take advantage of discounts offered by suppliers, improve cost savings, and overall processing efficiency. The result: agencies have more time and resources to focus on other strategic initiatives within their organizations.

www.ipp.gov

Features and Functions

Distribute Purchase Orders Electronically

Agencies send electronic purchase orders from their procurement or core financial system to registered suppliers through IPP. Suppliers then use the electronic purchase orders to create invoices.

Create, Submit and Validate Invoices Electronically

Suppliers can create an invoice online or upload electronic invoices, making it simple for them to submit their invoices to agencies. IPP enforces the agency's business rules to ensure that the invoices are correct before they are accepted.

Approve Invoices Using Automatic Routing

IPP electronically routes invoices to all required approvers based on the agency's workflow rules and the invoice attributes. Escalation and delegation features ensure that the invoice is reviewed on a timely basis. Once approved, invoices are transmitted to the core financial systems along with accounting information required for correct allocation.

Send E-mail Notifications to Agencies and Suppliers

IPP provides agencies and suppliers with a wide variety of e-mail notifications, which ensures that work is addressed promptly.

View Payment Information Including Return, Debt Offset, and Partial Payment Data

Payment information is available online, along with proprietary offset information such as the

creditor agency, creditor contact, reason for the offset and the cancelled original payment certified by the agency.

Simplify Supplier Enrollment

IPP provides an easy-to-navigate supplier enrollment process and Web portal. A supplier only has to enroll once with IPP to receive payment notifications or to transact with all IPP-enabled agencies.

Use Self-Service Administration Tools

Agency and supplier account administrators can define and maintain user permissions, preferences, options and e-mail notification accounts, enabling agencies to configure IPP to meet their specific business needs.

Provide Centralized Access to All Transaction Data

Agencies and suppliers can view orders along with all related invoices and payment data in one place. IPP's end to end transaction visibility eliminates the need to log-on to and query multiple systems.

Automate Intra-Governmental Buy/Sell Transfers

New IPP features include support for interagency buy/sell transactions. IPP will support the Standard InterAgency Agreement, orders, invoices, submission of transactions to IPAC, and receipt of settlement status from IPAC.



Benefits

IPP reduces costs to both agencies and suppliers.

IPP Solution Provided at No Charge

Transforms agency purchase order and approval processes without the high costs associated with systems offered by commercial vendors. No licensing, implementation, maintenance or transaction fees to either the supplier or the agency. Enhancements and upgrades are also provided at no charge.

Improves Prompt Pay Compliance and Increases Supplier Discount Opportunities

Automated notification alerts, escalation features, and online reports ensure that invoices are approved and paid according to Federal Prompt Pay guidelines, reducing interest payments. Faster turnaround times allow agencies to take advantage of supplier discounts.

Streamlines Communication with Suppliers

Decreases the effort required to ensure that invoices are correct and match their purchase orders. Invoices must meet the agency's business rules before they are accepted from the supplier.

Frees Up Agency Staff

Routine supplier inquiries are handled through IPP's self-service features. Reduces the volume of payment and Treasury offset related inquiries to the agency. Payment information from Treasury is updated automatically, including Treasury offset amount and creditor agency information.

Increases Savings in Processing Costs

View transactions on-line to eliminate the costs of issuing and mailing paper purchase orders and routing invoices.

Benefits (continued)

Offers Flexible Workflow for Expedited Approvals

Route and approve invoices online, reducing time and effort needed to send and receive copies of invoices to and from authorized approvers.

Provides Improved Security

IPP eliminates the need for suppliers to have access to an agency's financial systems. IPP is built on a secure architecture and is certified to Federal security requirements, including the use of role-based security and encryption.

Promotes Standards

Provides a common method for interacting with suppliers and exchanging data across the Federal government. IPP is a single system that allows suppliers to transact with multiple government agencies.

Allows Simple Procurement

As a U.S. Treasury program, no formal procurement is required for an agency to adopt IPP, only a brief Agency Participation Agreement.

Addresses Intra-Governmental Transfer Issues

IPP will help avoid out of balance conditions, improve controls, reduce reconciliation effort, and provide visibility for both trading partners throughout the transaction life cycle. The complete process flow from IAA creation to settlement confirmation will be supported in one central location.

Contact Information

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